



The Regional Biomass Energy Program (RBEP) promotes increased production and use of bioenergy resources, and helps advance the use of renewable biomass feedstocks and technologies. Historically, the RBEP leverages two nonfederal dollars for every federal dollar it administers.

Benefits of Biomass Energy Development

- Promotes the use of renewable biomass energy resources
- Creates new markets that enhance local farm economies
- Reduces dependence on imported oil
- Cuts greenhouse gas emissions
- Creates industries and jobs

“The highest priority of the Mississippi Biomass Council is educating citizens about the potential for biomass utilization in the state of Mississippi.”

Duane Motsenbocker, Chair
Mississippi Biomass Council
Management Specialist
Food and Fiber Center
Mississippi State University



**U.S. Department of Energy
Regional Biomass Energy Program**

www.ott.doe.gov/rbep

ANOTHER RBEP SUCCESS: Building momentum for biomass in Mississippi

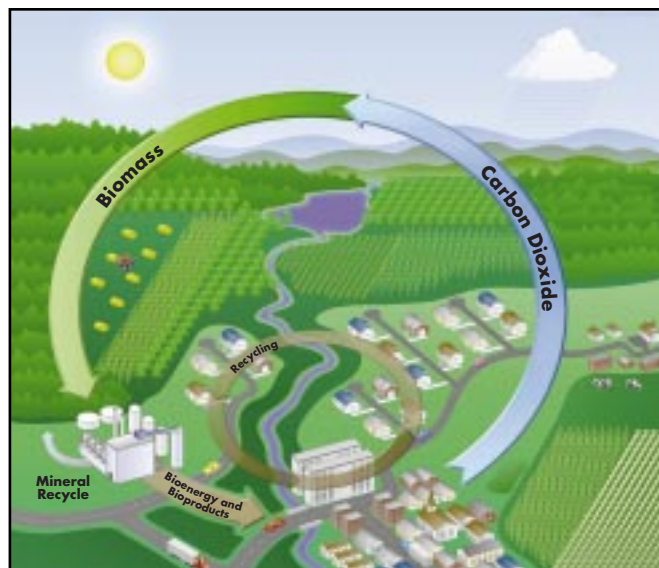
CHALLENGE

In states where agriculture is a significant industry, biomass is plentiful. Biomass is any non-fossil organic material that can be processed to create heat, steam, hot water, electricity, or alternative fuel, such as ethanol. Increasingly, when biomass-based industries do not exist, organizations and initiatives are developed to identify potential biomass uses, producers, and consumers.

RBEP SOLUTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Biomass Energy Program helped fund the development of the Mississippi Biomass Council, a non-profit, interdisciplinary organization that works to resolve waste problems and implement biomass energy technology throughout the state of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Biomass Council organizes industry representatives, educators, and individuals interested in converting renewable organic resources into energy or commercial products. In addition, the Council provides assistance to policymakers in the creation of future waste-to-energy policy and economic development opportunities through energy development programs.



The bioenergy cycle shows how sustainable use of natural energy flows mimics the Earth's ecological cycles. (Illustration courtesy of Bioenergy Feedstock Development Programs, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.)

Partners

U.S. Department of Energy
Regional Biomass Energy Program

Mississippi Department of
Economic and Community
Development

Jackson State University

Mississippi State University

*Corn is one of the most
plentiful sources of
biomass in the U.S.*

*(credit: Warren Gretz.
Photo courtesy of the
U.S. Department of
Energy, National
Renewable Energy
Laboratory.)*



Web-based Biomass Information Resources

Mississippi Biomass Council

[http://www.decd.state.ms.us/programs/
energy/biomass_council.htm](http://www.decd.state.ms.us/programs/energy/biomass_council.htm)

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy
Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EREN)

<http://www.eren.doe.gov>

Bioenergy Information Network

<http://bioenergy.ornl.gov>

Biomass Resource Information Clearinghouse

<http://rredc.nrel.gov/biomass>

Biomass Research and Development Initiative

<http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov>

RESULTS

Since the Mississippi Biomass Council's formation in 1998, workshops have been held to address the topics of biopower and ethanol. Another workshop is planned for spring 2002 on the topic of alternative fuels.

Other activities have included in-depth analysis of technical and economic factors related to potential demonstration projects and commercial biomass projects in Mississippi. The Council has supported proposed state legislation to prohibit methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) gas additives and modify Mississippi's ethanol dispenser labeling requirement. MTBE was first added to gasoline in the 1970s in an effort to boost octane when lead additives were eliminated. Unfortunately, it has been implicated in contamination of drinking water supplies in the years since its introduction. A likely replacement for MTBE is ethanol, which can be produced regionally from locally grown biomass, such as corn.

Much of the Council's work has focused on developing Mississippi's ethanol industry. This includes bringing together key stakeholders and drafting recommendations for implementing ethanol production incentives. Members of the Council have visited an ethanol production plant in Nebraska and are preparing to conduct a feasibility study for building a similar facility in Mississippi.

BENEFITS

Developing local biomass energy resources benefits farmers, consumers, local economies, and the environment. Mississippi's Biomass Energy Council is bringing together representatives from throughout the state to explore and create biomass energy opportunities that will maximize Mississippi's potential to reduce its dependence on non-local energy sources and make full use of its renewable energy resources.

For more information:

Kathryn Baskin
Southern States Energy Board
6325 Amherst Court
Norcross GA 30092

Phone: (770) 242-7711

Fax: (770) 242-9956

E-mail: baskin@sseb.org

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